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<B>LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT ABOUT RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND NATO<D>

VILNIUS, May 4, ELTA - Lithuania did not consider statements by some Russian officials to use military force to protect the rights of the Russian minorities in the Baltic countries as very significant, Lithuanian President said at the meeting with participants in the session of the Cultural and Educational Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

According to Brazauskas, the war-like characters of Russian Foreign Minister Andrej Kozyrev and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev were closely related to the beginning of the electoral campaign in Russia.

Brazauskas said that Russia should not be identified with the former USSR which had posed threats for the whole world.

According to him, the Baltic states which had already had significant experience in negotiating with Russia, had the sense that Russia did not claim the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

However, Brazauskas noted that the forces which suggested isolating Russia from the European political structures - NATO among them - should not be supported.

"The Russian people should be convinced that NATO is not their enemy, but rather the means of the collective security. Such educational activities could be also performed by the members of the Parliamentary Assembly", Brazauskas said.

Moreover, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian security was guaranteed by their membership in the Council of Europe, president noted.

According to him, the security in the continent could be increased if Ukraine was admitted into the Council of Europe.

Brazauskas reminded to the parliamentarians of the Council of Europe that he had sent his letter to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly with the request to support Ukraine's membership in the Council of Europe.

<B>IMF REPRESENTATIVES GAVE ADVICE FOR PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS<D>

VILNIUS, May 4, ELTA - Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received on Thursday Adalbert Knobl, head of the group for Lithuania of the IMF Baltic division, whose mandate had come to the end.

Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, Governor of the Bank of Lithuania Kazys Ratkevicius, IMF representative in Lithuania Peter Cornelius, new IMF mission head Daniel Citrin and a